

The Official Newsletter of the Kansas City DX Club

# ***KC DX NEWS***

**AB0X-EDITOR**

KCDXC Website: <http://www.kcdxclub.com/>

**March 2023**

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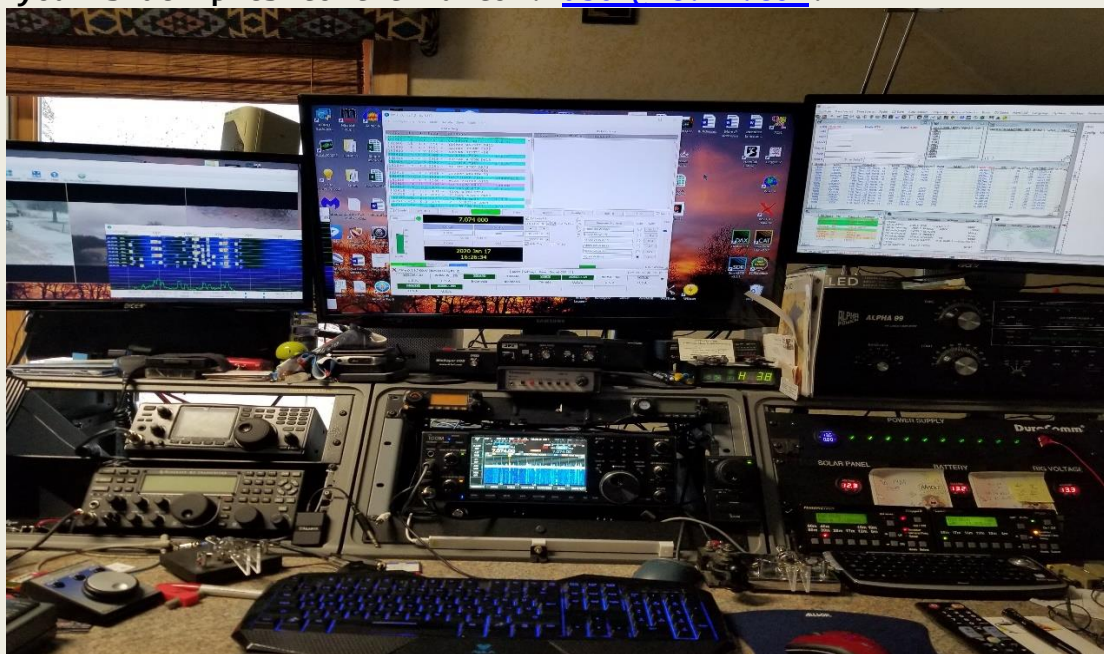
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**NEXT KCDXC MEETING: MARCH 27** -The next KCDXC meeting will be a LIVE meeting at the JOCO Library, Central Conference Room 1, 9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park KS, 66212. Start: 6:30pm. Zoom available also.

**NEW MONTHLY FEATURE: SHACK PICTURES!** This month, Lee, K0LW, sends over the pic below of his radio shack. Nice set up, for an old guy!

Send in your shack pics to the Editor: [ab0x@kc.rr.com](mailto:ab0x@kc.rr.com).



## KCDXC DXCC HONOR ROLL

Call	Mixed	CW	Phone	DIGI	IOTA	160	6 M	DX Challenge
AB0X	357	353	353	236		227	47	2382
W0GJ	354	344	354	292		236	20	2799
N0RB	353	347	351				23	2269
K3PA	352	350	346	323		188	36	2740
N0CWR	350	350	350	326	985	207	93	2933
NX0I	350	349	347	271		211	6	2522
K0CA	350	349	350	331	318	112	36	2641
K0HQW	349	333	347			33		1352
AC0A	348	321	348	24	882		15	2288
K0VXU	348	335	331	265	439	143	2	2295
KS0DX	347	324	337	225	360	107		2516
K4SV	346	340	344	337		301	87	2852
K0GY	344	342	344	292			5	2316
KB0X	336							
KE5BR	335	177	297	79				742
K0AP	334	331	325	295		47	8	2353
W0QQ	334	248	332	234	151	115	38	1937
K0THN	334	322	288	193	243	1		1929
WA0WOF	331							
K4SX	331	280	320	187		52	82	1773
W0MB	329	255	326	285		45		1849
K0XM	326	292	275	225		113	24	1858
AA0MZ	312	290	292	220	532	44	20	1296
AC0C	310	306	267	243	160	128	3	1852
K0IZ	300		300					
AD0K	265	247	88	200	209	36	6	940
NS0D	263	219	142	130		3	2	
AI60	258	230	200	171		20	10	992
W0XE	248	216	193	14				833
N0EG	243	203	169	120		20	11	783
W0DR	229	30	174	70		10	7	622
N9GB	203							
W0ZAP	154	39	76	127		21	5	565
N0RC	154	28	50			3	3	604
W0HL	96	7	50	78		5	7	231
WD0SRI	63	17	56			1	1	138

Red indicates member is at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll in that respective class. Totals are with deletions. NOTE: When changes of DXCC totals are sent in to me, they are immediately updated in the next month here in the newsletter. Send to [ab0x@kc.rr.com](mailto:ab0x@kc.rr.com) . Please only one update a month.

# The Presidents Corner

March 2023

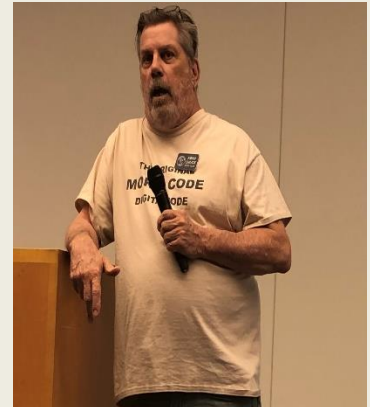
Chuck KØXM

Hello everyone!!!

Here we are again, and Cycle 25 seems to be getting better and better. 10M has been amazing and 6M has been showing sporadic spurts of a lot of DX. And it will just get better and better.

This month we are still working on the presentation. So watch the email group, as soon as we get something set up, I will pass it on there.

Last month, we got bit by the Room Rental. The Red Cross had it booked (and I found they can book a year in advance. So, I had the room from 1815 to 2000. I got there early and specifically asked if there was a possibility of getting in early if they were done with the blood drive. I was informed that no it would not be possible as they will be there until 1900 on the dot. So I made quick arrangement for the room across the floor, and it fit perfectly for a small group which we had. That room is limited to 12 people. SO with us set up in the new room, I look out the door, to redirect anyone who just walked up and looked at the Carmack Room and it was EMPTY. At 1800!! Did not make me a happy camper, but it is what it is.



So this month we will be in the Central Conference Room 01- this room has a limit of 10 people. So, this should be interesting. In the meantime, I am going to call around and see what other options are available. Room or no room, we will STILL have to Zoom meetings.

Hopefully I will soon be able to post our list of presenters and which meeting they will be presenting on, and you can make arrangements so you do miss one.

In DX, FT8WW will be shut down by the time you get this, so hopefully everyone who needed Thierry got him in the log. He is to be commended on what he accomplished being a single op DX-Pedition.

And as the calendars show, there will be many more coming up as travel is starting be to more available.

That's it for this month, it has been hectic around here, so not much more to add. If you want to see something presented, pass it on and I will try and set it up. Email me at k0xm@k0xm.net

That is my main email for ham items, so change the byrg.net address to this one.

Until next month. CUL

73 es Good DX  
Chuck KØXM (ex- NØBIW)

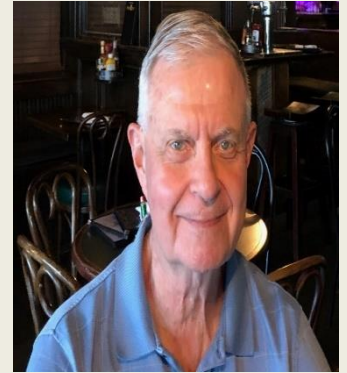
**February 27, 2023**

## **Kansas City DX Club Meeting Minutes**

The February 2023 meeting of the Kansas City DX Club was called to order by President Chuck Kraly, KØXM at 6:30pm CST. The meeting was conducted in the Johnson County Library Main Branch Conference Room No. 4 and on Zoom.

### **Agenda**

1. Introductions
2. Upcoming DXpeditions and Contests including FT8WW and 3YØJ
3. Dues
4. DXPedition donations
5. CW Pileup Contest Run Through Status
6. Discussion about membership
7. Comments and next meeting



### **Introductions**

We each introduced ourselves, first those on Zoom, then those in person. Most are working DX here and there. We reported our successes or failures working FT8WW and 3YØJ.

### **Contests**

ARRL DX SSB March 4, Novice Rig Roundup March 4-12 (might be interesting to boat anchor hams), and several state QSO Parties are showing up.

As usual, see the WA7BNM online calendar <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

### **DXpeditions**

Chuck, KØXM again provided information from the DX World website for upcoming DXpeditions. Looks like several good ones are coming up this month again.

This information will be provided on groups.io. Chuck also uses the NG3K Announced DX Operations website for information. This information is also available on the <https://kcdxclub.org/dxpeditions> website.



### **DXPedition Donations**

Joe, KA3NAM, commented that the DXpeditions should provide donation levels to help in the decision making as to who should be given how much. Probably not going to happen.

### **Dues**

Check the Roster on the club website to see if you are current on your 2023 dues. <https://kcdxclub.org/roster>

### CW Pileup Contest Run Through

Through the hard work of Rick Parent W0ZAP and others, two attempts at testing the performance of the CW Pileup software have been made. Unfortunately, there has been no success to date. The software is being scrutinized closely to determine the cause.

### Membership

Chuck, K0XM, will send out a survey on groups.io for us to state our preference for presentations and discussions at our meetings.

### Comments

The winners of the W0AR and W0SS Club Contests were announced and plaques given to them per the contest rules. The winners will be published in the upcoming KCDX Club Newsletter.

The next meeting will be March 27, 2023, the last Monday of March on Zoom and at the Johnson County Main Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Charlie Hett, K0THN, KCDX Club Secretary.

**SEND IN YOUR 2023 CLUB DUES TO W0ZAP!  
USE THE PAYPAL LINK ON THE KCDXC WEB  
PAGE: <https://kcdxclub.org/>**

### THINGS OLD KCDXC DXERS SAY!

**BY AB0X**

If you are a ham op who spends lots of time hanging around old DXers, you very often hear them repeat sayings, statements or even cliches about their phase of the hobby of ham radio. Some are even operating rules and provide practical suggests. In fact, the more time you spend around these old guys and gals, the more you will start believing in and saying these things, too. But there's a reason for these common phrases, and the more you DX, the more you will understand why the old timers say these things. Read below and you will understand: (These are not arranged in any order):

"NIL(Not in Log) written on a returned QSL is the worst thing that can happen to a DXer!"

"When any P5 comes on: Work First, Worry Later!"

"Never trust a spot on the cluster to be the right call or a legit operation!"

"Huh? What did you say?" (Commonly heard at KCDXC Meetings)

"Where's the bathroom?" (Also, commonly heard at KCDXC Meetings)



"Never answer the door during a DX Contest. It might be your neighbor."

"Do you remember the time AB0I melted N0SS's new Murch transmatch?"

"I remember when N0RB had dark hair."

"Yeah, I don't need that one. I worked it back in 1981!"

"Stop calling if you smell smoke!"

"Be nice to young DXers because you may need to ask him to fix something on your tower someday!"

"Real DXers" operate as much CW as they do SSB and digi!"

"Do you remember AE0K on 49 after a six pack?"

"The neighbor who always complains about TVI is wide awake at 2 AM watching "Leave it to Beaver."

"I worked him on 7 Megacycles, ahh... I mean 7 Megahertz."

"FT8 still sucks, but if it's the only way to work a new one, I will do it!"

"FT4 is only half as bad as FT8."

"Yeah, I only need that one on 2 meters."

"Those long and muddy hours of burying radials pay off!"

"Lids out number DXers by at least 2 to 1."

"Label all cables in the shack when you are 50, because at 70, you won't have a clue where the cables go."

"Antennas, rotors, coax, etc. always break when it is zero outside!"

"The best part of working a contest at N0XA's was Martha's cooking."

"The guy who puts the carrier on the DXpedition frequency, NEVER SLEEPS!"

"On SSB, it's the guy who says "Hola" every 30 seconds who NEVER SLEEPS!"

Have you got some things old KCDXC DXers say? Send them over and we will add them to our list.- AB0X

## QRP ON VHF?

BY KY00

Hi, again, testers and Dxers. You might wonder why I titled this column the way I did.

Yes, you CAN run QRP on the VHF bands. Remember, though, it may be lots harder to get that rare one, but the reward is great.

QRP is defined as a power output of five watts CW or digital modes, and ten watts PEP on SSB. That means your handheld runs QRP. Here are a few pointers for running QRP on VHF.

First of all, QRP takes some getting used to. It's not easy to run it, so an elmer is recommended who can show you techniques learned over time. He or she has gotten that rare grid and can point out errors you might make during the QRP session. Station assembly advice, logging techniques, equipment purchases, and advice on which contests are more favorable for QRP'ers to enter, to name a few.

Most radios today have power adjustments whose lowest setting is at QRP levels. So, getting into QRP is easy from the front panel. We put up a pair of two meter big wheels and a Cushcraft 17B2 at my previous location and I worked Florida consistently on both antenna arrays running three watts from an IC 910H at three

watts and no preamp. The feed line was LMR-400 Flex to the roof with the antennas at twenty-five feet. In my twenties, I worked GW3NJY, Mal, who was in from Britain on vacation in Chicago in a hotel. My station then was an IC-202, a three-element beam and a Genell preamp on the second floor of the historic Roxbury building at 32nd Terrace and main streets in downtown Kansas City Missouri. Both of these radios were off-the-shelf radios.

Running QRP has some advantages. The station is lots smaller than stations set up for QRO operation. This is especially important when operating portable. Smaller radios, batteries, and antennas make lighter loads.

Operating portable brings another advantage over fixed station operating—shorter feed lines. The higher in frequency we go, the more feed line loss. If we run portable, we can shorten transmission lines to a few feet and more signal gets out to the antenna and comes back. If using a solid-state transmit amplifier, this is especially true. N0JK got much better reports from Minnesota from KA0PQW in EN33 than me, because his transmission line was much shorter and he was on a tall hill. He got much more signal out because he had much less loss, ran NO transmit amplifier, used the preamp in his IC-706 Mark 2 G, and his antenna was half the size of mine. He also heard better because the park he operates from has low noise.

QRP on VHF requires lots of BIS (body in seat) time. This is because it takes longer to work stations. The old power ratios work here like they do on HF. The big thing we deal with here is path loss—how much signals get attenuated as we travel further from the transmitter. Ye ol' inverse square law doth apply. EME ops work around this all the time. They work with signals just above the theoretical receiver noise floor of DB-170.

The digital modes, FT-4, FT-8, JT-65, MSK-144, and others, could conceivably make QRP on VHF quite interesting. Since the higher the frequency, the less noise, these modes should work much better. The problem I see with them is they all operate on single frequencies, and on HF they create needless pile-ups. On SSB/CW, we wouldn't THINK of using one frequency. You call and then move off. What might work here is a digital modes chat room like there is for the meteor scatter guys. If we could come up with scheds similar to SSB/CW scheds, I think we could eliminate this problem. I understand that would be hard to do on HF.

How would whisper work on QRP weak signal? It's a slow sending mode, but it might do fine in an inversion.

Since VHF beams are much smaller than HF beams, QRP is doable due to their narrower beam width. At two meters, for example, ten elements can provide nice radiation patterns for portable work in a small package, and on the tower, stacking them allows even better gain and front to back. We think about these things on HF, but they apply here, too.

On VHF especially, when running QRP, we want the noise floor as low as possible, so we get the receiver in low-noise environments—cars in the country, parks without power lines at the operating location, low-noise front-ends, that sort of thing. Same as on HF.

Feed lines become somewhat important here. Keep an eye out for small-diameter, low-loss types. The higher the frequency, as we know, the more the loss per hundred feet. Just look in any manufacturer's data sheets and you'll see this is the case. If you're running portable or mobile, watch the center conductor. With some stiffer coax with low loss, these can break. Check the data on connectors, too. Some UHF connectors at two meters show lower loss than N connectors. Beware. The more signal to the antenna feed point, the more likely the Q goes in the log.

Like the preamp in your home setup, the preamp selected for your portable station should be one with as low a noise figure as possible. As I've stated in previous columns, the purpose of a preamp is to lower the noise floor of the receiver. This is especially important when working QRP, since those signals are much weaker than normal. We don't call this weak signal for nothing.

With the advent of the new lithium-based batteries, QRP weak signal VHF is now available for that favorite summit or park. These batteries provide high current output with low weight. Many folks doing POTA and SOTA run a full hundred watts with the batteries for hours on HF. On QRP weak signal, they'll run much longer. With rigs like the FT817/818 and the IC-705, they extend operating time by allowing the internal batteries to rest in standby. They also allow for preamps and transverters to be carried along and used in the system.

For two twenty, nine o two, and up, transverters give maximum performance, and since QRP is the operating power, no amplifier's needed. Preamps are strongly encouraged, though, particularly in the field, since antennas are usually smaller and closer to the ground. Watch for thermal noise near the ground and buildings.

Checking the propagation maps on the Internet, the beacons, the National Weather Service radio band, both the continental and international calling frequencies or the TV bands is no less important for VHF QRP operation. You can find out if you're in a duct, inversion, or in the path of an E(S), F(1) or F(2) band opening. So use these tools liberally.

Since the VHF bands are much less crowded, week-long QRP sprints might be a way to get people interested in operating at this level. Because of the better signal to noise ratio on VHF weak signal, handhelds can be heard during openings when transmitting their five-watt signals. WB0NQD, (SK) Grid Bandit No. 1 (number permanently retired), worked into Florida using a Santek multi-mode handheld in 2005. Try VHF QRP for something different. -KY00

## **DX NEWS & VIEWS**

**BY AB0X**

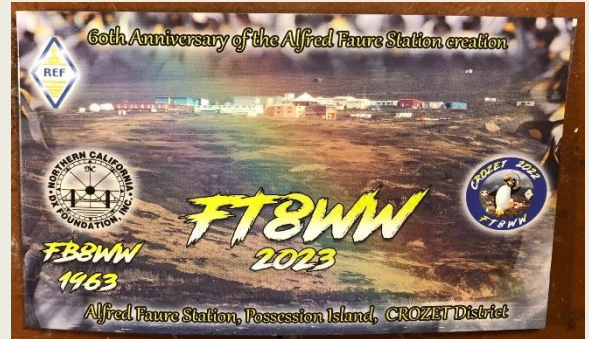
QSL!- Despite the limited results of the 3Y0J DXpedition, they have already proven to be excellent QSLers. K0GY reports he has already received a 3Y0J confirmation on LOTW!



FT8WW has also, been sending out LOTW QSLs for those who donated to the cause. I received confirmation from FT8WW for two needed slots on LOTW this week. The paper QSL showed up March 15 in the mail, from the OQRS! The US dollar still has some respect left in our world.

FT8WW, Thierry, was worked on 10 Meters ssb on March 13 by several deserving KCDXC DXers. A traditional split frequency operation was used and was great fun for all. Thanks!

KØXM reports that as many as 50K QSOs were made by FT8WW!



# DX NEWS DE ARRL DX BULLETIN:

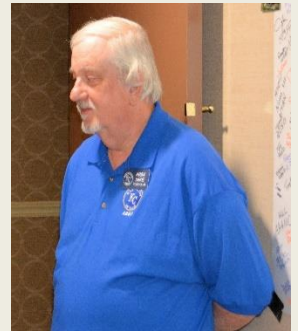
MONACO, 3A. Lorenzo,

3A20G is a new amateur radio operator and has been active while testing various HF antennas. He is interested in using QRP and in portable operations. QSL direct.



GHANA, 9G. Alan, G3XAQ is QRV as 9G5XA until March 14. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW. This includes being an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest. QSL direct to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Special event station A60AP is QRV until August 31 to commemorate the Astronaut Program. Look for special event stations A60AP/0 to A60AP/14 to also be active during the event. QSL via operators' instructions.



CAPE VERDE, D4. Luca, HB90BD is QRV as D44KIT from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until April 5. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

COMOROS, D6. Hiro, JF10CQ is QRV as D67AA until March 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. QSL direct to home call.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jacek, SP5APW is QRV as DU1/SP5APW until March 14 from the Luzon Coastal Islands, IOTA OC-244. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

CROZET ISLAND, FT/W. Thierry, FT8WW will be QRV from March 13 to 16. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via F6EXV.

GUERNSEY, GU. Operators MØUNN and G4DIY are QRV as MP7DX until March 13. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via G4DIY.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, HC8. Operators WB2REM, KE2D, VO1IDX, and K4LT are QRV as HD8M from Santa Cruz, IOTA SA-004, until March 11. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL

direct to WB2REM.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI. Members of the Loma del Toro DX Club will be QRV as HI0LT from Isla Cabras, IOTA NA-122, from March 12 to 19. Activity will be on 160 to 2 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via EB7DX.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 beginning March 15, and expects to be here for two months while on work assignment. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mainly CW with some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

GASAWARA, JD1. Stations JD1BOI and JD1BON are QRV from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until March 24. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

SURINAME, PZ. Harrie, PA3EHS is QRV as PZ5HS from Para until March 25. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, JT6, and FT8. QSL via PA3EHS.

MALI, TZ. Ulmar, DK1CE is QRV as TZ1CE until March 16. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via DK1CE.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Pete, G0TLE is QRV as V4/G0TLE from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until March 17. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct to home call.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. John, N9EAJ is QRV as VP5/N9EAJ from Grand Turk, IOTA NA-003, until March 22. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly SSB with some CW. He will make a side trip to the Columbus Landfall National Park for a Parks on The Air activation. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Special event station AT2G20 is QRV from Gurugram until June 2 to promote greater international cooperation through amateur radio in conjunction with the G20 summit being held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10. QSL via operator's instructions.

*THANKS, TO THE ARRL DX BULLETIN FOR THIS INFO!*



**KCDX CLUB**  
**KEEPING THE DAYTON TRADITION ALIVE!**



